

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE,
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA**
Bringing Law Enforcement Together
Federal . State. Local



A Message From the U. S. Attorney
Laura Garrett Canary

The U. S. Attorney's Office has been very busy since our last newsletter. In May we held the LECC District Conference at the Lodge and Conference Center at Grand National in Opelika. In August, all three U.S. Attorney's Offices held the 16th Annual Statewide LECC Conference in Gulf Shores. Both conferences were very well attended. In fact,

the Statewide LECC Conference was the largest ever.

Alabama ICE is continuing to expand in the Middle District. We now have active task forces in Montgomery, Auburn/Opelika/Lee County, and Dothan/Troy. ATF has trained officers in each of these communities to investigate and submit for federal prosecution, gun crimes that occur

in their respective jurisdictions. So far this year, the City of Montgomery has experienced a substantial reduction of crimes involving guns, including robberies, assaults, and homicides. Police **Chief John Wilson** attributes the decreases to the introduction of Alabama ICE.

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**Alabama ICE Task Forces Launched in
Auburn, Opelika, Dothan and Troy**

By: Julia Weller, First Assistant United States Attorney

In the fight against crime, "we are taking one more tool out of the tool box" stated **Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones**, "and that tool is Alabama ICE." On August 26, 2003, the United States Attorneys Office ("USAO") officially announced the implementation of the Alabama ICE Task Force in the Lee County area. The task force was announced by **United States Attorney Laura Garrett Canary**, **Opelika Mayor Barbara Patton**, **Auburn Mayor Bill Ham**, **Opelika Police Chief Tommy Mangham**, **Auburn Police Chief Frank deGraffenried**, **Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones**, **Lee County District Attorney Nick Abbett**, **Wes McCollum**

Assistant District Attorney, Lee County, Louis Franklin, **Criminal Chief USAO, John Cloud** **LECC (Law Enforcement Coordination Committee) Coordinator for the USAO and Julia Jordan Weller, First Assistant United States Attorney**. In Lee County, (Continued on page 2)



Alabama ICE Task Forces Launched in Lee, Houston and Pike Counties (continued from page 1)

Alabama ICE is a partnership among the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), the Lee County District Attorney's Office, the Auburn Police Department, the Opelika Police Department, the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Cities of Auburn and Opelika.

Representatives from the United States Attorney's Alabama ICE Task Force will work together to ensure that all potential gun cases, both federal and state, are charged and prosecuted in the most appropriate forum. Alabama ICE's goal will be to educate the public about gun offenses and the possible sentences available for such offenses. **United States Attorney Canary** stated "With the strong support of **Mayor Patton, Mayor Ham, Chief Mangham, Chief de-Graffenried, Sheriff Jones, District Attorney Abbett** and other public officials and community leaders, I am confident that we can substantially reduce gun violence in this area."

Because gun crime often results in violent crimes, the law enforcement officials in Lee County have joined together specifically targeting gun crime in Lee County. In August, **ATF Resident Agent in Charge, Jamie Reyes**, trained approximately eight law enforcement officers from Auburn, Opelika

and Lee County and a Lee County Assistant District Attorney in Federal firearm laws, investigation and case preparation requirements.

"In the fight against crime, we are taking one more tool out of the tool box and that tool is Alabama ICE"

**Lee County Sheriff,
Jay Jones**

Assistant District Attorney, Wes McCollum, will be sworn in as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to assist the United States Attorney's office in prosecuting gun crimes in Lee County and in Federal District Court. The local law enforcement officers will function as Special ATF agents when investigating federal gun crimes which occur in

Lee County.

Aggressive federal prosecution of gun crimes acts as a deterrent for three reasons. First, the federal firearm statutes are much tougher than their state counterparts, imposing significantly harsher sentences. Second, when a sentence is imposed by the federal court, it is a highly probable that the violator will actually serve his entire sentence in federal prison, as there is no possibility of parole. Third, in the federal system, violators generally proceed to trial more quickly, than in the state system, getting offenders off the street faster. In short, Alabama ICE sends the message that "gun crime means hard time."

Since the implementation of the Alabama ICE program with local law enforcement in the Montgomery metropolitan area, there has been a significant reduction in crimes of violence. As of July 31, 2003,

the murder rate in Montgomery has



Press Conference launches Alabama ICE Task Force in Lee County.

GUN CRIME = HARD TIME

ALABAMA ICE
Isolate the Criminal Element



Alabama ICE Task Forces

(continued from page 2)

dropped 50% over the same period last year. In the first six months of 2003, there were 24% fewer robberies and 33% fewer business robberies than in the same period in 2002. Thus far, the U. S. Attorney's Office has brought 15 cases from the East Alabama area under Alabama ICE with seven convictions and eight cases pending.

In Dothan, the Alabama ICE Task Force was launched in September, 2003. The Dothan and Troy ICE task force is comprised of a partnership of the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Houston

County District Attorney's Office, Pike County District Attorney's Office, the Dothan Police Department and the Troy Police Department. "We expect to see successful prosecutions of gun crime with the implementation of the Alabama ICE program in the cities of Dothan and Troy," said **U. S. Attorney Canary**. "**Canary** praised the strong support of **Chief White, Chief Everage, District Attorney Valeska, District Attorney McAliley**, and other public officials and community leaders, who are working hard to substantially reduce gun violence in Houston and Pike Counties.

Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska said, "Due to a murder trial starting today, I could not attend the news conference. I would like to express my support for the Alabama ICE program and look forward to working with the U. S. Attorney in this effort to reduce violent crime." **Pike County District Attorney Gary McAliley** said, "I am highly supportive of the U. S. Attorney's Office and the Alabama ICE program. My office will work closely with the program to get guns out of the hands of criminals."



Above: Troy Police Chief **Anthony Everage** gives press interview. Below: Pictured at the PSN Task Force Press Conference in Dothan Alabama are (right to left) **Anthony Everage, John Cloud, Leura Canary, John White, Louis Franklin and Verne Speirs**.



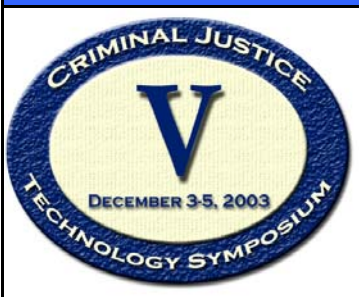
Anti-Terrorism Update:

ATTF has changed its name to ATAC

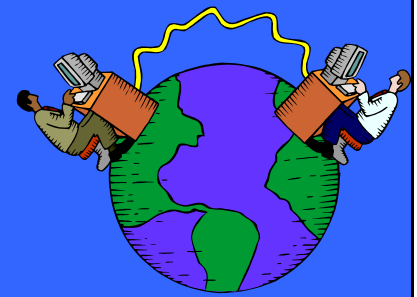
The Attorney General announced on Wednesday, September 24th, the name change of ATTFs to ATACs (Anti-terrorism Advisory Councils). This name change will not change the substantive duties and responsibilities of the ATTFs, and the ATACs will continue to co-exist and cooperate with the JTTFs in each district.

The name change should eliminate any confusion on the part of people not participating in the ATTFs and JTTFs as to the two groups' different, but important respective roles.

Our existing ATTF will retain its current membership intact as an Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), which shall be chaired by the U.S. Attorney. In the Middle District, the ATAC will still be coordinated through **Jeff Mattox, the Intelligence Officer**. Although the name has changed, the function of the committee remains the same. When information becomes available to local law enforcement, the established vehicle for reporting and sharing that terrorism information is through the ATAC. The ATACs will continue their core functions: (1) coordinating specific (cont'd page 4)



**YOU ARE INVITED
to the
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
TECHNOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM V**



**“Technology Sharing for Intelligence
Based Investigations”**

You won't believe it, cost for this incredible conference is **only \$75**. But the rub is that you need to make your reservations early. This conference fee includes admission to technical sessions and Expo, Welcome reception, Wednesday dinner, Thursday lunch, Thursday and Friday breakfast and all coffee breaks. You will be staying at the beautiful Marriott Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama.

All law enforcement should have received reservation forms by mail, however if you have misplaced yours, simply go to our website (www.usdoj.gov/usao/alm) and the forms are available under the LECC section on the site. You may also get information by e-mailing

rstricklin@cs.ua.edu or **John Cloud** at john.cloud@usdoj.gov. **Hotel rates are only \$64.00**. There are only a limited number of rooms at this rate so reserve your room now! **The cut-off date for this rate is November 3. Call 1-800-544-9933** to make reservations and mention the conference name.

The conference is sponsored by South-west Alabama Integrated Criminal Justice System (SAICS), the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC) and CARE R&D Laboratory University of Alabama (CRDL/UA).



**Anti-Terrorism Update:
ATTF's name has changed to ATAC** (cont'd from page 3)

anti-terrorism initiatives; (2) initiating training programs; and (3) facilitating information sharing. JTTFs will retain primary operational responsibility for terrorism investigations, while the ATAC will continue to take the lead where they are better equipped to manage particular projects either because of other pressing JTTF priorities or limited JTTF resources. Also, the ATACs will continue to serve in a supporting role to ensure all ATAC members receive timely information from the JTTF and FBI. Your agency's continued dedication and support is critical to our department's number one priority: the war on terrorism. Since September of 2001, the ATAC has been comprised of a state, local and federal law enforcement which is networked through your United States Attorney's Office. The ATAC will continue to meet quarterly to share and report information and will still maintain its coordinated network through radio and computer communications. **Jeff Mattox** with the **United States Attorney's Office**, is available to answer any questions. Jeff works with other anti-terrorism coordinators at all levels of government. You may contact Jeff at (334) 223-7280 or jeffery.mattox@usdoj.gov.

Additionally, the **terrorism tip line** is 1-877-896-3890.



**Welcome Back
Les Brown**

After serving six months of military duty, **Les Brown** has returned to the office as our Chief investigator. The office is thankful for his safe return. We also ask your thoughts for **Terry Moorner**, AUSA, who is still serving in IRAQ.

United States Attorney's Office: Meet and Greet the Legal Team



Rand Neeley received his undergraduate degree in history and political science from the University of Alabama in December, 1984. During his third year of law school at the Jones School of Law of Faulkner University

Mr. Neeley began his career with the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama as a paralegal specialist assigned to the criminal division. Following his graduation from law school and passage of the Alabama State Bar exam he was sworn in as an Assistant United States Attorney in January, 1992. Rand served in the criminal division until his transfer to the office's civil division in August 1997.

Rand has been a dedicated public servant for more than a decade. He is one of those lawyers who is proficient at both civil and criminal litigation. He is known around the office for his dry wit and extraordinary sense of humor. He and **Martha Ann Miller (civil division lawyer)**, with the help of **Glenna Ryals** (legal assistant) primarily put together the office's Christmas party where people in the office laughed more than they have in years. Rand is known for his cool temperament and even-handedness.

He and his wife, Ann, have two children, Graham and Mary Ellen who are both as intelligent as their father.

As a matter of interest, Rand is an exceptional history buff and he comes by it naturally. His mother, Mary Ann Neeley, is a well-known author and Montgomery's official historian. Folks often joke around town that Mary Ann Neeley probably knows more about Montgomery families than they know about themselves.

Thought for the day:

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."
- Vincent T. Lombardi



Steve Feaga, a native of Montgomery, received a B. S. from the School of Commerce and Business Administration, at the University of Alabama with a major in accounting in 1978. Feaga was simulta-

neously commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the USAF having attended college on a 4-year AFROTC Scholarship. In 1981 Feaga received a Juris Doctorate from the Cumberland School of Law, Samford University in Birmingham. Feaga spent four years on active duty with the Air Force and has served in the Air Force Reserve for 18 years. While on active duty Feaga prosecuted and defended court martial actions.

Upon leaving active duty in 1985 Feaga spent time in both private practice as well as in the Office of the District Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama until 1991, serving as Chief of the White Collar Crime Division, and then spent four years as the head of the State of Alabama's Public Corruption Unit. Since 1995 Feaga has served as an AUSA prosecuting general crimes. Feaga has prosecuted some of the most significant public corruption actions both in the Middle District and the State of Alabama. He is known for his exceptional expertise and near magical courtroom skill.

Feaga, also a Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve currently serves as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 22nd Air Force (AMC), Dobbins ARB, GA, and manages legal affairs for subordinate units consisting of 15 wings, one group, and more than 20 geographically separated organizations located in 23 states and comprising over 26,500 reservists with a budget exceeding \$200 million. In this capacity he supervises, trains, assists and recruits for 75 judge advocates and paralegals providing legal services to 15 subordinate wings and others nationwide.

He has been married to his wife Linda for 23 years and they have four children.

LECC MIDDLE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The United States Attorneys Office for the Middle District of Alabama hosted a District wide conference for law enforcement on May 8-9. The training was both entertaining and informative. In addition to the excellent speakers, **John Cloud**, the Middle District's Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee Coordinator, was kind enough to ensure attendees plenty of treats at each table, hot coffee and awarded door prizes at the end of the conference. The event took place at the new luxury golf resort, The Lodge, in Auburn. The rooms were handsomely equipped with granite top sinks and luxurious balconies overlooking the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course or the swimming area.

The training began with the practical and experienced **Judge John Carroll**, Dean and Professor at Cumberland Law School. Judge Carroll discussed vehicle Stops—Exigent Circumstance Searches and Legal Road Blocks. This everyday topic presented matter of fact, hands on information applicable to almost every law enforcement officer. After lunch, the group tackled the topic of Alien Identification. **Special Agent John Buis**, INS Criminal Investigation, presented challenges associated with the ever growing problem of illegal aliens and false identification.

Later, **Jeff Mattox** and **Bob Clark**, the Chief Intelligence Coordinators in charge of Terrorism from the United States Attorneys Office and Alabama Bureau of Investigation closed out the training day with a full report.

The first day was concluded with a law enforcement banquet which in part honored the U.S. Attorney Office's Law Enforcement officers of the year.

The second day of training began with **Special Agent Mark Kraft of ATF** (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) discussing the tracing and tracking of firearms. This is a particularly important issue, because as he pointed out, the majority of law enforcement which are injured as a result of a gun, the vast majority of the guns used in those instances are illegal. The afternoon was concluded with a law enforcement panel discussion on joint state, federal and local prosecutions.



Outstanding Law Enforcement Officers of the Year

The Middle District of Alabama United States Attorneys Office is pleased to announce those outstanding law enforcement officers who have provided exceptional service. The AUSAs in the office are responsible for nominating those law enforcement officers who have performed exceptionally well over the course of the last year. All criminal AUSAs vote on the nominees in four categories: Outstanding Military Law Enforcement Officer, Outstanding Federal Law Enforcement Officer, Outstanding Local Law Enforcement Officer and Outstanding State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Of those outstanding officers and agents nominated below are the officers who were selected.

Outstanding Military Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to **SPECIAL AGENT SCOTT CORBITT, Air Force Office of Special Investigations Maxwell Air Force Base**. Captain Scott Corbitt is the Commander of Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Maxwell Air Force Base. He was born in Parkersburg West Virginia and he and his wife Stephanie have one son, Isaac Mathew. Captain Corbitt has a BS in Business Administration from West Virginia University and a Masters in Criminal Justice from George Washington University.

As the commander of AFOSI, Scott has ensured that investigations brought to the United States Attorneys Office for prosecution are complete and accurate. He also ensures that special agents under his command are fully involved with each case through its conclusion.

Also, Captain Corbitt has become an integral



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

part of the United States Attorney's Antiterrorism Task Force. Briefings by the AFOSI regarding threat potentials as identified by the military community have been extremely beneficial to the Middle Districts law enforcement community. Additionally, Captain Corbitt has insured that AFOSI is an active member of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. His active participation with the Middle District of Alabama's United States Attorneys Office has been extremely beneficial.

Outstanding Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to **SPECIAL AGENT THERON JACKSON** of the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives**. Born in New York and raised in New York and Virginia, Agent Jackson came to Montgomery, Alabama full of enthusiasm and has taken the PSN program by storm. Agent Jackson has impressive credentials graduating from the University of Virginia, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Richmond and courses at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University England as well as a Fellowship and LLM Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Agent Jackson has worked as a contract attorney for the prestigious law firms of Jones, Day, Revis and Pogue as well as King and Spaulding.

Agent Jackson joined ATF in October 1999 and in January 2002 he was assigned to the responsibility of Co-coordinator of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, the program in Alabama is referred to as Alabama ICE. Due in part to Agent Jackson's direction, a coordinated response to gun crime was built with law enforcement agencies, state, local and federal. Agent Jackson substantially increased the number of cases referred to the United States Attorney by well over 100%. In the first six months of the fiscal year, Agent Jackson, personally handled approximately 36% of the indictments on behalf of ATF. From the onset of the PSN initiative, Agent Jackson has made himself available, day or night and has significantly contributed to the largest number of gun related prosecutions in the last ten years in the Middle District.

Outstanding Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to **SERGEANT B. J. McCULLOUGH** of the **Montgomery Police Department**. Un-



Leura Canary, United States Attorney and **Louis Franklin**, Criminal Chief, present the award for Outstanding Military Law Enforcement Officer to **Captain Scott Corbitt**.



Special Agent **Theron Jackson** accepts the award for Outstanding Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



WELCOME GREG BORLAND, DEA ASAC

The Middle District is pleased to announce the arrival of the new DEA ASAC (Assistant Special Agent In Charge), **Greg Borland**. Greg is originally from Pennsylvania. He was most recently assigned as the Birmingham RAC (Resident Agent In Charge) and still maintains his home in Birmingham while working out of the Montgomery District Office. Greg is already familiar with the state of Alabama and we are lucky to have him.

Outstanding Law Enforcement Awards (Continued from page 7)



doubtedly, the PSN, Alabama ICE., **(continued page 8)** program would not have its successful direction and course were it not for the Montgomery Police Department and Sergeant Billy J. McCullough. A graduate of Lanier High School and former United States Marine, Sergeant McCullough has demonstrated remarkable success investigating gun prosecutions. Since 2002, Sergeant McCullough has been a member of the PSN / Alabama ICE Task Force. Since that time, he has worked diligently with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County District Attorney's office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the United States Attorney's Office to coordinate, identify and investigate Firearms Crime. Through his leadership, law enforcement officers have been trained to identify and report federal firearms violations. Due in part to Sergeant McCullough's tenacity, the number of firearms prosecutions have more than doubled over fiscal year 2002. During the past nine months, he has single-handedly screened and completed over half of the firearms prosecutions in the State of Alabama.

Outstanding State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year was awarded to **TROOPER JESSIE PEOPLES** of the **Alabama Department of Public Safety**. By now most of law enforcement has heard or read about Trooper Jessie Peoples, who seems to have an uncanny skill for spotting drug couriers along I-65. Trooper Peoples began his career with the Department of Public Safety in 1989 and was assigned to full-time highway interdiction in 2002. His efforts to interdict narcotics couriers have been important in preventing the transportation of narcotics and in fostering important relationships between various state and law enforcement agencies as well as with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area ("HIDTA") program. Having jurisdiction throughout Alabama, Trooper Peoples has been actively involved in similar activities in the Northern and Southern Districts. In the Middle District alone, Trooper Peoples has conducted sixteen highway interdictions over the course of the last two years netting seizures of over \$521,000 in cash. These seizures involved over 167 pounds of cocaine, 67 pounds of marijuana, quantities of cocaine base, ecstasy and firearms. Over the past three years he has confiscated a total of 700 kilos of cocaine, 400 kilos of marijuana and drugs worth \$1,960,628.



Sergeant B. J. McCullough accepts the award for Outstanding Local Law Enforcement of the Year.



Trooper Jessie Peoples accepts the award for Outstanding State Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Highlights of the Patriot Act Distinguishing Myth from Fact



Myth: *The ACLU claims that the Patriot Act “expands terrorism laws to include ‘domestic terrorism’ which could subject political organizations to surveillance, wiretapping, harassment, and criminal action for political advocacy.” They also claim that it includes a “provision that might allow the actions of peaceful groups that dissent from government policy, such as Greenpeace, to be treated as ‘domestic terrorism.’” (ACLU, February 11, 2003; ACLU fundraising letter, cited by Stuart Taylor in “UnPATRIOTic,” National Journal, August 4, 2003)*

Reality: The Patriot Act limits domestic terrorism to conduct that breaks criminal laws, endangering human life. “Peaceful groups that dissent from government policy” without breaking laws cannot be targeted. Peaceful political discourse and dissent is one of America’s most cherished freedoms, and is not subject to investigation as domestic terrorism. Under the Patriot Act, the definition of “domestic terrorism” is limited to conduct that (1) violates federal or state criminal law and (2) is dangerous to human life. Therefore, peaceful political organizations engaging in political advocacy will obviously not come under this definition. (Patriot Act, Section 802)

Myth: *The ACLU has claimed that “Many [people] are unaware that their library habits could become the target of government surveillance. In a free society, such monitoring is odious and unnecessary. . . The secrecy that surrounds section 215 leads us to a society where the ‘thought police’ can target us for what we choose to read or what Websites we visit.” (ACLU, July 22, 2003)*

Reality: The Patriot Act specifically protects Americans’ First Amendment rights, and terrorism investigators have no interest in the library habits of ordinary Americans. Historically, terrorists and spies have used libraries to plan and carry out activities that threaten our national security. If terrorists or spies use libraries, we should not allow them to become safe havens for their terrorist or clandestine activities. The Patriot Act ensures that business records — whether from a library or any other business — can be obtained in national security investigations with the permission of a federal judge.

Examining business records often provides the key that investigators are looking for to solve a wide range of crimes. Investigators might seek select records from hardware stores or chemical plants, for example, to find out who bought materials to make a bomb, or bank records to see who’s sending money to terrorists. Law enforcement authorities have always been able to obtain business records in criminal cases through grand jury subpoenas, and continue to do so in national security cases where appropriate. In a recent domestic terrorism case, for example, a grand jury served a subpoena on a bookseller to obtain records showing that a suspect had purchased a book giving instructions on how to build a particularly unusual detonator that had been used in several bombings. This was important evidence identifying the suspect as the bomber.

In national security cases where use of the grand jury process was not appropriate, investigators previously had limited tools at their disposal to obtain certain business records. Under the Patriot Act, the government can now ask a federal court (the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court), if needed to aid an investigation, to order production of the same type of records available through grand jury subpoenas. This federal court, however, can issue these orders only after the government demonstrates the records concerned are sought for an authorized investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a U.S. person or to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities, provided that such investigation of a U.S. person is not conducted solely on the basis of activities protected by the First Amendment.

Congress reviews the government’s use of business records under the Act. Every six months, the Attorney General must “fully inform” Congress on how it has been implemented. On October 17, 2002, the House Judiciary Committee issued a press release indicating it is satisfied with the Department’s use of (cont’d page 14)

Middle District of Alabama LECC District Conference Photo Album





OCDETF AWARDS AND NEWS

The Middle District of Alabama at the District wide conference recognized two very important OCDETF (Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force) cases.

The first, "Operation Tuskegee III Spinoff" was saluted as the OCDETF 2001 case of the year. Only two years have passed since this office nominated "Tuskegee II" as case of the year. Willie Ferguson is the third in a well documented line of major drug traffickers to emerge from Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama. Much like his predecessors, Willie Ferguson was able to develop a close-knit extensive network which assisted him in importing cocaine hydrochloride and marijuana into the Tuskegee, Macon County, Alabama area. The drugs were sold in bulk quantities to his associates in Macon County, neighboring Montgomery County, as well as other central and east Alabama counties. However, unlike his predecessors, the drugs were imported from Los Angeles, California (cocaine) and Houston, Texas (marijuana). The organization was responsible for distributing approximately 250 kilograms of cocaine hydrochloride, and more than 1,000 pounds of marijuana over several years.

Investigative techniques used in this case included extensive Title III efforts, in conjunction with ground/aerial surveillance and controlled buys. During the course of the investigation, law enforcement officers seized approximately \$200,000 in assets from members of the organization; approximately 10 kilograms of cocaine; and 150 pounds of marijuana.

The investigative phase of Tuskegee III Spinoff concluded with an 8 count indictment of 12 subjects, two of whom were from Los Angeles, California and Yuma, Arizona. All defendants have either pleaded guilty or been found guilty.

The two year investigation was a joint effort including agents and officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Alabama National Guard, Alabama Bureau of Investiga-

tion, Central Alabama Drug Task Force, Montgomery Police Department, Auburn Police Department, Prattville Police Department, Houston County Sheriff's Office, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The Middle District of Alabama would like to note the hard work of the following individuals:

Terry F. Moorer, AUSA

Carolyn Hudson, USAO

Jennifer Belyeu, USAO

Jim Semrick, DEA

John Drew, FBI

Jay Mosley, Alabama National Guard

Lance Abbett, ABI

Scot Ward, Central Alabama Drug Task Force

Tommy Dawson, Auburn Police Dept.

Chris Murray, Auburn Police Department

David DeJohn, Prattville Police Department

Joe Watson, Houston Co. Sheriff's Office

Tony Yates, Lee County Sheriff's Office.

The second case recognized as The Middle District of Alabama 2002 case of the year was "Operation Creole Sunset".

In the late 1980's, the Montgomery Police Department began an investigation involving a cocaine base distribution organization in Montgomery, Alabama. After many arrests and investigative leads beginning as early as 1994, the primary source of cocaine for this organization was identified as being Nakia Pettus. Later, Pettus's organization was discovered to be one of several branches of an organization moving cocaine in the southeast United States from Miami, Florida. Ten other members of Pettus's organization were identified.

Pettus and other members of his organization transported cocaine from Miami, Florida, to the Middle District of Alabama, where it was converted into crack cocaine. After processing, members of the organization would distribute the crack in Montgomery and other cities within Alabama. Proceeds

from the sales were sent back to Miami via a number of methods to include over \$200,000 in Western Union wire transfers. During the course of the conspiracy, which continued into mid-2000, this organization distributed, at a minimum, over 300 kilograms of cocaine base.

The defendants were charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine base, money laundering, and substantive distribution counts. All eleven defendants have pleaded guilty. It is anticipated that several other identified branches of this organization will be indicted in the near future. The success of this case was the direct result of the joint efforts of the Montgomery Police Department, Internal Revenue Service, HIDTA, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other state and local agencies.

Todd A. Brown	U.S. Attorney's Office	Richard Wallace	Montgomery Police Dept.
Carolyn Hudson	U.S. Attorney's Office	Tommy Conway	Montgomery Police Dept.
Jennifer Belyeu	U.S. Attorney's Office	Bill Herman	Montgomery Police Dept.
Bob Greenwood	Drug Enforcement Administration	Dave Kennedy	Montgomery Police Dept.
David Taylor	Drug Enforcement Administration	Gene Sission	Montgomery Police Dept.
John Drew	Federal Bureau of Investigation	Scott Tatum	Montgomery Police Dept.
Louie Wilson	Internal Revenue	Lance Carlson	Orange County (Florida) Sheriff's Office

Each of these officers is to be congratulated and commended for their extraordinary contribution to law enforcement.



Below: Chief James Henderson, Clanton Police Dept. receives Asset Forfeiture Equitable Sharing check for \$4,017.20 based on 1999 traffic stop by Clanton Police Dept.



"A true measure of your worth includes all the benefits others have gained from your success."

Cullen Hightower

John Cloud Chosen for Attorney General's LECC Advisory Committee

John Cloud, the Middle District of Alabama's LECC Coordinator, has been one of five individuals selected by the Attorney General of the United States to serve on the Attorney General's LECC Advisory Committee. John's innovative practices have set examples for all LECC coordinators throughout the country. He has been consulted by LECC coordinators outside the State of Alabama regarding the policies and practices applied in the Middle District.

Prior to joining the United States Attorney's Office in 1998, John served as the former head of the Ala-

bama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) which is the State of Alabama's lead investigative agency. John has had a successful career in law enforcement and with nearly thirty four years of experience. John has played a major role in developing some of the most successful law enforcement initiatives in this District such as Alabama ICE, the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and others. John certainly sets an example of which we are all very proud. Congratulations John!



The Patriot Act: Distinguishing Myth from Fact (continued from page 9)



section 215: "The Committee's review of classified information related to FISA orders for tangible records, such as library records, has not given rise to any concern that the authority is being misused or abused."

Myth: *The ACLU claims that the Patriot Act provision about delayed notification search warrants "would allow law enforcement agencies to delay giving notice when they conduct a search. . . . This provision would mark a sea change in the way search warrants are executed in the United States."* (ACLU, October 23, 2001)

Reality: **Delayed notification search warrants are a long-existing, crime-fighting tool upheld by courts nationwide for decades in organized crime, drug cases and child pornography.** The Patriot Act simply codified the authority law enforcement had already had for decades. This tool is a vital aspect of our strategy of prevention – detecting and incapacitating terrorists *before* they are able to strike.

In some cases if criminals are tipped off too early to an investigation, they might flee, destroy evidence, intimidate or kill witnesses, cut off contact with associates, or take other action to evade arrest. Therefore, federal courts in narrow circumstances long have allowed law enforcement to delay for a limited time when the subject is told that a judicially-approved search warrant has been executed. This tool can be used only with a court order, in extremely narrow circumstances when immediate notification may result in death or physical harm to an individual, flight from prosecution, evidence tampering, witness intimidation, or serious jeopardy to an investigation. The reasonable delay gives law enforcement time to identify the criminal's associates, eliminate immediate threats to our communities, and coordinate the arrests of multiple individuals without tipping them off beforehand. In all cases, law enforcement must give notice that property has been searched or seized. The Supreme Court has held the Fourth Amendment does not require law enforcement to give immediate notice of the execution of a search warrant. The Supreme Court emphasized "that covert entries are constitutional in some circumstances, at least if they are made pursuant to a warrant." In fact, the Court stated that an argument to the contrary was "frivolous." *Dalia v. U.S.*, 441 U.S. 238 (1979). For more information please visit www.lifeandliberty.gov on line.

Alabama ICE Success stories: The Seven Minute Verdict



Seven Minutes! We are not making this up folks! In the amount of time that it usually takes to elect a foreman, a jury convicted Reco Teague, age 27 of Ramer, Alabama of being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Leura Garrett Canary**, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, announced the conviction. The Honorable Truman Hobbs, United States District Judge, presided over the case, which was tried by AUSA, **Verne Speirs**.

Federal law prohibits any convicted felon from possessing any type of firearm. Teague had previously been convicted by the State of Alabama for Assault in the second degree, a felony offense that requires the defendant to inflict "serious physical injury" to another person. As a result of this conviction, Teague could not lawfully possess any type of firearm.

"This defendant's criminal history proved he was a threat to the safety of others. In returning a guilty verdict in under 10 minutes, the members of the jury clearly stated that they have no tolerance for armed criminals. I am grateful to the **Troy Police Department** for its professional investigation of this case, considering the dangerous circumstances surrounding the recovery of the firearm" stated **U.S. Attorney Leura Canary**. According to the evidence, on May 17, 2002, **Officer Freddie Brooks of the Troy Police Department** stopped Reco Teague for various traffic violations. Immediately after the traffic stop, Teague fled into nearby woods. Near Teague's vehicle, **Officer Brooks** recovered a box of 9mm "Blazer" bullets. Although he was not apprehended in a subsequent search, **Troy Police officers, Sgt. Tim Hunter and Officer Stephen Dukes**, soon discovered articles of Teague's clothing in the same wooded area. As officers secured the clothing, a loaded 9mm (continued on page 16)

Middle District Has One of Largest Heroin Seizures in Alabama History

Initially what appeared to be a routine traffic stop on I-85, June 3, 2003, turned out to be one of the largest heroin seizures in Alabama history. An Alabama State Trooper stopped a 2000 Chevrolet Malibu with Texas license plates near Auburn, Alabama. Of the two individuals driving the automobile, one was an illegal alien from El Salvador and the other a resident of Laredo, Texas.

Suspensions were aroused when these individuals gave conflicting stories regarding their destination and the reason for the trip. A narcotics dog at the scene alerted law enforcement that drugs were possibly on board. The individuals gave consent for law enforcement to search the vehicle which resulted in the discovery of more than 24 pounds of brown heroin individually wrapped in one pound parcels. The street value of the drug is estimated at more than \$16,000,000 (sixteen million dollars). Governor Riley commended those troopers who work every day to make our streets safer.

The drivers of the vehicle were two women



who face charges of heroin possession with intent to distribute. The individuals in the car were arrested and the investigation into the matter continues by both State and Federal Law Enforcement.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
COORDINATING COMMITTEE,
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
Bringing Law Enforcement Together
Federal . State. Local**

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The Seven Minute Verdict

(continued from page 15)

pistol fell from inside the clothing, struck the ground, and discharged. No officers were injured. This case was investigated by the **Troy Police Department**, and **Special Agent Theron Jackson** of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT US AT
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/ALM**

Mark your Calendar

- Oct. 24, 2003—Hate Groups Seminar, Hoover Public Library, Hoover, AL—8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. = Registration—\$7.00
- Nov. 5-7, 2003—Kinesic Interview Techniques Levels 1 & 2 at Valley Community Center, 0900 hrs. -1700 hrs.—\$250.00 per person—Contact Deputy Chief Ronald Docimo at (334) 756-5210 or (706) 518-5210.
- Nov. 10 & 11, 2003—Kinesic Interview Techniques Level 3 (Master's Level) at Valley Community College, 0900 hrs. - 1700 hrs. - \$250.00 per person —Contact Deputy Chief Ronald Docimo at (334) 756-5210 or (706) 518-5210.
- Nov. 18-21, 2003—Mental Health Crisis Intervention Specialist Training (Law Enforcement Scholarships maybe available) Call (334) 244-3929 for more info.
- **December 3-5, 2003 Law Enforcement Technology Conference, Grand Hotel in Fairhope, AL**

For more information about the above training con- tact
John M. Cloud, LECC Coordinator, U.S. Attorney's Office,
Montgomery, AL 36104 (334) 223-7280

MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

We are also in the process of organizing an initiative to address the growing problem of the use of "club drugs" by young persons. This problem is particularly acute in the college and university communities. We are working with state and local law enforcement and prosecutors to educate the public and effectively address this threat. The cooperation the United States Attorney's office has experienced with federal, state, and local law enforcement has been the reason for our collective success. I can tell you from my discussions with other U.S. Attorneys throughout the country that we have one of the most cooperative, progressive law enforcement communities anywhere in this country. I am grateful to all the police chiefs, sheriffs and state and federal agency heads who have worked with our office on a variety of issues. I ask that you help make us more effective prosecutors by continuing to share your ideas, provide feedback and let me know about any problems. Together, we will make the Middle District of Alabama a safer place.